

Washington, DC — Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) together with Congressman Doug Bereuter (R-Neb.) will testify at a Senate Banking Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee hearing on flood insurance reform tomorrow, Thursday, March 11th at 2:30 p.m. in Room 538 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The two Members of Congress will testify on legislation they introduced to reauthorize and reform the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which was approved by the House of Representatives in November of last year. Their bill, which was originally introduced in the 106th Congress, would address the excessive costs to the NFIP of repetitive loss properties.

The goal of the legislation is to avoid injury, death and damage before it occurs, and to give property owners the resources to prevent future flood losses. The Blumenauer-Bereuter bill would improve the effectiveness and stability of the NFIP by helping communities deal with repeatedly flooded properties. Under the bill, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would work with local governments to provide homeowners assistance in either elevating, flood-proofing or moving their homes away from flood waters. Those who refuse mitigation assistance could pay higher flood insurance premiums for choosing to live in a risky area.

According to FEMA, existing mitigation and building standards have resulted in over \$1 billion annually in reduced flood losses. H.R.253 would significantly increase these savings by increasing funding for FEMA's mitigation grant assistance program.

WHAT: Senate Banking Housing and Urban Affairs Committee Hearing on

WHERE: 538 Dirksen Senate Office Building

WHEN: Thursday, March 11
2:30 PM